

1896

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# *Annual Report*

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Brandon and Byshottles Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

At the Census taken in April, 1891, the total population of your district was found to be 14,299. At the end of 1896, I estimate it to be 16,001, and at the ~~end~~<sup>middle</sup> of the year 15,812.

256 deaths were registered during the year. In 1895 the deaths numbered 310; in 1894, 259; in 1893, 251; in 1892, 246.

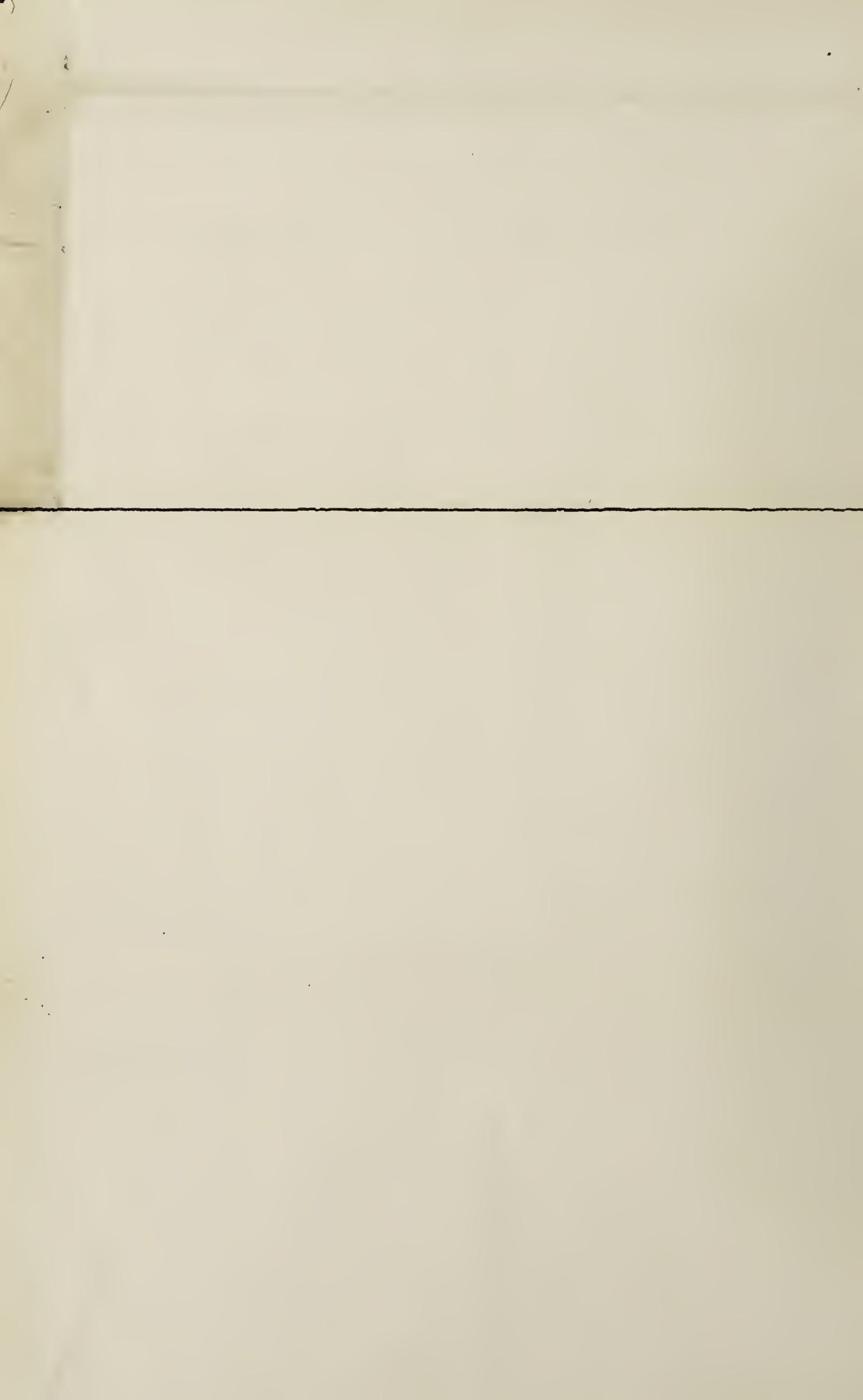
The deaths were at the rate of 16·1 per thousand, being the lowest during the past six years. In 1895 the death-rate was 19·9 per thousand; in 1894 it was 16·9, in 1893 it was 16·7, in 1892 it was 16·6, and in 1891 it was 22·8. The deaths under 5 were at the rate of 9·2 per thousand, and those over 5 at the rate of 6·9 per thousand.

The Zymotic death-rate was 2·2 per thousand, being about half the rate in 1895. Infant mortality rate, 187; Phthisis death-rate, 0·82 per thousand; Respiratory death-rate, excluding Phthisis, 4·61 per thousand. The Zymotic death-rate, Infant Mortality rate, and Respiratory death-rate, excluding Phthisis, are lower than in the previous year, while the Phthisis death-rate is three times higher.

9 Inquests were held, and the following verdicts returned:—Senile Decay, Inflammation of Lungs accelerated by fracture of thigh accidentally received, accidentally killed by being thrown from conveyance, accidentally killed by fall of stone in coalpit, suicide by hanging while temporarily insane, accidentally falling from loft and breaking neck, Inflammation of Bowels, injuries to head, accidentally killed by fall of roof in coal pit, Natural Causes.

12 deaths were uncertified, and the cause in each case was given as follows:—Natural Causes, Heart Disease and Pneumonia, ~~Tubular~~ Meningitis, Pneumonia, Convulsions, Natural Causes, Impaction of Gallstones, Peritonitis, Heart Disease, Pneumonia, Natural Causes, Natural Causes.

527 births were registered during the year, being 21 less than in the previous year. 271 were males, and 256 were females. The births were at the



rate of 33·3 per thousand. In 1895 the birth-rate was 35·3, in 1894 it was 37·4, in 1893 it was 35·6, and in 1892 it was 38·6 per thousand. The natural increase of the population was 378, or at the rate of 23·9 per thousand. In the previous year the rate was 15·3 per thousand.

142 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, being 176 less than in the previous year. In 1895 there were 318 cases, in 1894 there were 376 cases, in 1893 there were 323 cases, and in 1892 there were 200 cases. It will be seen from the foregoing figures that there was a great reduction in the number of infectious diseases during the year. Of the 142 cases, 98 were Scarlet Fever, 5 were Diphtheria, 6 were Membranous Croup, 16 were Typhoid Fever, one was Puerperal Fever, and 16 were Erysipelas. As in former years, Membranous Croup again proved more fatal than Diphtheria. 49 cases occurred in the East Ward, 64 in the Centre Ward, and 31 in the West Ward. The large number of cases in the East and Centre Wards is due to the fact that more than ~~2/3~~ of the whole population reside in those Wards.

118 of the cases occurred in the first half of the year, and the remaining 24 in the last half.

As in former years, your Inspector and I visited most of the infected houses, and disinfectants, such as Condy's Fluid, Creosol and Sanitas were supplied where necessary. It was still difficult to persuade people that the Hospital was the best place for their Scarlet Fever patients, although they regarded it more favourably than formerly. Isolation at home is absolutely impossible.

30 patients were removed to the Hospital; all were suffering from Scarlet Fever. 8 were from the East Ward, 19 from the Centre Ward, and 3 from the West Ward.

At the end of 1895, 15 patients remained in the Hospital, so that 44 were discharged cured, and at the end of the year one remained under treatment.

291 patients have been admitted to the Hospital since it was opened on September 8th, 1892. In 1892 there were admitted

12 Scarlet Fever patients, and 6 Typhoid Fever patients.

In 1893—78	do.	do.	do. 15	do.	do.
In 1894—49	do.	do.	do. 17	do.	do.
In 1895—74	do.	do.	do. 10	do.	do.
In 1896—30	do.	do.	do. 0	do.	do.
				—	
	243		48		
	==		==		

In my last report I stated that the Hospital was too small, and since then your Council has taken no steps to provide more accommodation. I think this delay has been justified, as during the year the present building has been quite sufficient for the purpose, and at times has been quite empty. This was the case at the end of June, and early in July, and at the end of September, and also in November and December.



In case of any serious outbreak of Typhoid Fever, Small-pox, or Cholera, it would be necessary to provide increased accommodation.

Infected clothes and bedding have, as before, been treated in the "Disinfector." 101 Houses have been stoved by your officer, and some of the remaining were done by the occupiers. Houses were not stoved after Erysipelas.

In June your Inspector and I made an examination of the whole district. We found the general sanitary condition good, and recommended that the whole of the privies be whitewashed, except at Brandon Colliery, where they had been attended to.

At this time Brandon Village was without water, the supply having failed owing to the dry weather and the disturbance and partial blocking of the supply-pipe caused by colliery workings. This water famine continued from about the middle of May till the latter part of July, when a quantity of rain fell, and water again found its way into the pipes. Two samples of water were taken by the Surveyor, and forwarded to the County Analyst, whose reports, dated July 30th, 1896, are appended. He found the water was contaminated by foul surface water, and contained many objectionable and dangerous bodies. He considered it to be unfit for drinking purposes.

In my monthly report for June and July, in consequence of the scarcity and bad supply of the water, I recommended that the Village should be supplied with the Waskerley Water. Since then this matter has received the attention of your Council at each meeting till December, when it was decided to let it stand over till the Spring. In August, a Committee met at Brandon Village, and a Colliery Official pointed out the course of the water pipes up to Pit House, where the collecting tank is situated. The Committee was satisfied that a fresh water supply was necessary, and decided to advertise for tenders for carrying out the work. This was accordingly done, and at the October meeting of your Council two tenders, one of which did not state the total cost, and the other, which was considered to be rather high, were received. These were not accepted, and the Weardale and Shildon Water Company were invited to send in a tender. The result of this was that in December they offered to do the work if the Council would contribute £1,000 towards the cost. As at that time there was a plentiful supply in the old pipes, and in consequence of the large sum asked for, it was decided to let the matter rest till the Spring.

It was also decided to again take a sample of the water, but up to the end of the year that was not done.

In October a sample of water was taken from each of the two wells at Bleach Green Farm. Each sample was found to be unfit for drinking purposes, and the Analyst's report, dated October 15th, 1896, are appended. By the end of the year the owner had sunk a new well, from which a sample was ordered to be taken, and which will be done in due course.



In July we visited a number of Cowsheds and Slaughter-houses, and found them on the whole in a very satisfactory condition. In a few cases a little whitewash was needed, but after our visit this was soon put right.

The scavenging throughout the district was again done by contractors, and the work has been better done than in previous years. Carbolic powder was again used in and about the ash pits when being cleaned out.

At the latter part of 1895 complaints were received in connection with a foul smell arising from the manholes in the sewer at Esh New Winning. In November the sewer was examined by the Lanchester Surveyor, your Surveyor, and myself, and we decided to cover up the manhole near the end of Albert Terrace, and to run a 4-inch ventilating shaft up the end of Albert Terrace. Accordingly, in January last, this was done, and since then there has been no more complaint.

14 Plans for the erection of 46 dwelling-houses, and 12 plans for alterations and improvements to property in the district were submitted and passed by your Council.

14 written and 412 verbal notices were served by your Inspector for the removal of nuisances and improvements to property, and these were attended to.

In September a complaint in regard to two tailor's workshops was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. The defects were trifling, and were soon remedied.

There are two common lodging-houses and no tenemented property in the district, and no offensive trade is carried on.

With the exception of Brandon Village, and a few farm houses, the district is supplied with a constant supply of good water by the Weardale and Shildon Water Company.

The road leading from Langley Moor to Brandon Village, and past the Hospital, has been restored and converted into a really good one, and now it is possible to reach the Hospital by a road as good as any highway. This is a great improvement, and one which was much needed, for at times it was almost impossible to reach the Hospital, the road being in such a bad state. I ought to mention that a small portion of this road is still unfinished, but the work will be completed as soon as a satisfactory arrangement can be made with the N.E. Railway Company.

Although not a sanitary matter, I may perhaps mention that the main roads in the East Ward were lighted up with gas on November 5th, when about 100 gas lamps were lit for the first time.

In conclusion, I venture to congratulate your Council on the work done and results obtained by them during the year.

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The number of Infectious Diseases notified was the least during the last four years, and the Hospital accommodation was sufficient. The death-rate was the lowest for the past six years, while the making of the road already referred to, and the lighting of the main roads, were steps of great importance, and are a great improvement to your district.

Appended are tables A. and B., filled up as required, and which contains very valuable information.

COUNTY ANALYST'S OFFICE,

DARLINGTON, JULY 30TH, 1896.

To Mr. R. Gardner, Surveyor and Inspector Brandon and Byshottles Urban District Council.

I hereby certify that I have analysed a sample of water marked "Full Bottle," which I received from you on the 189, and that I find as follows:—

Colour and appearance in 2 foot tube...	Greenish yellow and turbid.
Odour when heated to 100° Fahr.	Strongly musty.
Chlorine and Chlorides ...	1.8200 grains per gallon.
Nitrogen as Nitrates ...	.1063      "      "
Ammonia ...	.0109      "      "
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	.0116      "      "
Oxygen Absorption ...	.0588      "      "
Injurious Metals ...	None.
Total Solid Matter dried at 220° Fahr,	11.9000      "      "
Microscopical Examination	Notable deposit from $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon consists of much decomposing vegetable matter, moving organisms of repulsive type, dyed fibres of cotton, frag- ments of pine wood, &c., &c.

OBSERVATIONS:—This sample is, in my opinion, contaminated with foul surface water. The use of such water for drinking purposes (especially if collected within a populated area) is a source of grave danger to the public health. It is, I consider, unfit for drinking purposes.

W. F. KEATING STOCK, F.I.C.,

WATER EXAMINER TO THE DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL.

COUNTY ANALYST'S OFFICE,

DARLINGTON, JULY 30TH, 1896.

To Mr. R. Gardner, Surveyor and Inspector Brandon and Byshottles Urban District Council.

I hereby certify that I have analysed a sample of water marked "R.S.," which I received from you on the 27th July, 1896, and that I find as follows:—



Colour and appearance in 2 foot tube...	Faint greenish, slightly turbid.
Odour when heated to 100° Fahr. ...	Slightly musty.
Chlorine as Chlorides ...	1·6800 grains per gallon.
Nitrogen as Nitrates ...	·0403 „ „
Ammonia ...	None.
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	·0056 „ „
Oxygen Absorption ...	·0392 „ „
Injurious Metals ...	None.
Total Solid Matter dried at 220° Fahr.	9·8000 „ „
Microscopic Examination	Notable deposit from $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon consists of oxide of iron (rust), sand, &c. Some fungoid growths, starch granules, moving organisms of repulsive type.

OBSERVATIONS :—This sample is, in my opinion, contaminated with foul surface water. The use of such water for drinking purposes (especially if collected within a populated area) is a source of grave danger to the public health. It is, I consider, unfit for drinking purposes.

W. F. KEATING STOCK, F.I.C.,

WATER EXAMINER TO THE DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL.

COUNTY ANALYST'S OFFICE,

DARLINGTON, OCTOBER 15TH, 1896.

To Mr. R. Gardner, Surveyor Brandon and Byshottles Urban District Council.

I hereby certify that I have analysed a sample of water marked "No. 1 House," which I received from you on the 10th October, 1896, and that I find as follows :—

Colour and appearance in 2 foot tube...	Distinctly green, turbid.
Odour when heated to 100° Fahr. ...	Strongly musty.
Chlorine as Chlorides ...	1·5200 grains per gallon.
Nitrogen as Nitrates ...	·0538 „ „
Ammonia ...	·0046 „ „
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	·0075 „ „
Oxygen Absorption ...	·0616 „ „
Injurious Metals ...	None.
Total Solid Matter dried at 220° Fahr.	16·8000 „ „
Microscopical Examination	Noticeable deposit from $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon consists of decomposing vegetable tissues, fungoid growths, many moving organisms.

OBSERVATIONS :—This water is, in my opinion, contaminated by foul surface water. I do not consider it to be fit for drinking purposes.

W. F. KEATING STOCK, F.I.C.,

WATER EXAMINER TO THE DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL.



## COUNTY ANALYST'S OFFICE,

DARLINGTON, OCTOBER 15TH, 1896.

To Mr. R. Gardner, Surveyor Brandon and Byshottles Urban District Council.

I hereby certify that I have analysed a sample of water marked "No. 2 Spring," which I received from you on the 10th October, 1896, and that I find as follows:—

Colour and appearance in 2 foot tube...	Faint greenish, not clear.
Odour when heated to 100° Fahr.	... Slightly musty.
Chlorine and Chlorides ...	... 1·7500 grains per gallon.
Nitrogen as Nitrates ...	... ·0248 „ „
Ammonia ...	... None.
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	... ·0035 „ „
Oxygen Absorption ...	... ·0700 „ „
Injurious Metals ...	... None.
Total Solid Matter dried at 220° Fahr,	17·5000 „ „
Microscopical Examination	... Notable deposit from $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon consists of decomposing vegetable tissues, fungoid growths, moving organisms, animal hairs.

OBSERVATIONS:—This water is, in my opinion, mixed with surface water. I consider it to be free from actual sewage pollution; but no water possessing the microscopical features shown by this sample can be described as a pure and wholesome drinking water. It is not a *safe* drinking water.

W. F. KEATING STOCK, F.I.C.,

WATER EXAMINER TO THE DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours Obediently,

HENRY SMITH, M.D.,

Durham, 25th January, 1897.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



A1.—TABLE OF DEATHS during the year 1896 in the Brandon and Byshottles Urban Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

LOCALITIES.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.			Registered Births.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
	Census, 1891.	Estimated to Middle of 1896.	At all ages.		Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.	
					5	6	7	8	9	10	11
East Ward ...	...	...	89	34	13	4	3	21	14		
Centre Ward H.	...	14299	15812	527	108	47	25	9	2	18	7
West Ward ...	...	...	52	21	7	1	4	12	7		
TOTALS ...	...	14299	15812	527	249	102	45	14	9	51	28

A2.—Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under five years of age.

LOCALITIES.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phtisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.	
	Under 5 ...	5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
East Ward ...	1	...	4	1	1	2	...	...	18	12	4	1	21	48
Centre Ward ...	2	...	...	...	4	6	...	1	21	11	1	...	35	70
West Ward ...	1	1	1	2	...	...	1	2	6	8	5	...	10	35
TOTALS ...	3	0	4	1	7	8	...	1	45	15	1	1	77	147
	1	2	1	3	2	...	2	7	31	15	...	37	102	
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto ... ... ... { Under 5 ... { 5 upwards 1 3 ... 3 7														

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1896, in the Brandon and Byshottles Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

LOCALITIES.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.							Number of such cases removed from their homes in the several localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital.	
	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Fevers.					
	Enteric or Typhoid	Puerperal.	Erysipelas.						
East Ward ...	11	1	4	1	2	1	5	2	
Centre Ward H. ...	26	...	1	...	9	...	1	4	
West Ward ...	17	2	1	...	...	...	5	15	
TOTALS ...	48	1	5	1	15	1	1	8	
	50	4	1	15	1	15		22	

